

## **MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY** **COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2005, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Due to the lack of a quorum, Chairperson Lane called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. as a Committee of the Whole.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 16, AND APRIL 20, 2005** **MINUTES**

This item was held pending a quorum.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Linda Block** - spoke about HR-1268 which if passed Ms. Block alleges would require the issuance of national identification numbers for U.S. citizens. Ms. Block also spoke about the Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements developed by Codex Alimentarius which would prevent the sales of all vitamins and natural supplements without a doctor's prescription.

Chair Lane spoke about the feasibility of implementing certain changes by Housing and Urban Development which will impact public housing services for people with disabilities. In addition, the Department of Rehabilitation has begun reorganization at the state level which will affect the operation of the department and its relationship to the Department of Labor and independent living centers. Chair Lane urged everyone to continue to advocate and contact their legislative representatives on issues concerning services for persons with disabilities.

Commissioner Rubenstein announced that Access Services Incorporated will be voting at its May 23rd meeting whether to begin Night Owl services on July 1<sup>st</sup>. If ASI votes to begin the service then there will be no paratransit services from midnight until 4:00 a.m., except in the West Central District which will continue to operate 24 hours a day. Paratransit services will continue to take reservations after 11:00 p.m. in areas that fall within  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles in either direction from a fixed bus route operating after 1:00 a.m.

Commissioner Rubenstein also reported about a rally in support of protecting In Home Support Services that will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup>, from 3-6 p.m. at 300 S. Spring Street. At issue are the implementations of IHSS cuts which will affect the ability of people with disability to live at home independently as opposed to being placed in nursing homes.

Commissioner Rubenstein also offered some personal and biographical information about himself.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (cont.)**

Mary Griffieth – spoke about ridership problems she is experiencing with Access Services and also about difficulties she is having getting responses from agencies she has contacted to express her concerns.

(Vice Chair Neal joined the meeting constituting a quorum)

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 16 AND APRIL 20, 2005 MEETINGS**

On motion of Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Neal, and unanimously carried, the Minutes for the Meetings of March 16, and April 20, 2005 were approved with the following correction:

*Alan Cantrell is the Executive Director for Access Services Incorporated.*

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005-06**

Jim Corbett, staff, reported that according to the Commission's By-Laws, elections for officers of the Commission are mandated

to be held in June of each year. Last week, Declaration of Candidacy forms were sent out to Commissioners with a due date of May 31<sup>st</sup> for submission. The Nomination Committee members were assigned by the Chair to review the forms and present a slate of officers for the election. Commissioner Russell was appointed to serve as the committee Chair.

**APPROVAL OF SPONSORSHIP FOR FAMILIA UNIDA'S ANNUAL WHEELCHAIR WASH ON JULY 24, 2005**

Commissioner Resendez spoke about the upcoming Wheelchair Wash which has been hosted annually by her organization Familia Unida. The event this year will be held to promote awareness and celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the ADA. The Wheelchair Wash is a community event that provides a day of outreach to local residents as well as a day of fun with beauty makeovers, food, musical entertainment and other activities. The event has already garnered the support of sponsors such as White Memorial Medical Center and the Southern California Gas Company.

Commissioner Resendez suggested that the Commission could offer its support by participating as co-sponsors for the event. The Commission would be asked to provide partial funding for the food, and in return would share in the event's promotional opportunities, and be provided with a booth to disseminate information about the Commission's activities and interests.

Following discussion, it was agreed to revisit this issue next year which will allow more time to formulate a plan for the Commission's involvement. Commissioner Krzyzanowski will attend this year on behalf of the Commission.

**DISCUSSION OF SPONSORSHIP/ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR RECEPTION ON JUNE 6, 2005.**

Jim Corbett gave an overview on the event which is held annually to acknowledge the work and accomplishments of outstanding women throughout Los Angeles County. Mr. Corbett explained that each year the Commission for Women and the Commission on Disabilities have supported each other's

luncheon event by purchasing a sponsorship and sending Commissioners.

On motion of Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Neal and unanimously carried, the Commission will purchase a Bronze Sponsorship for the 2005 Women of the Year Reception.

### **UPDATE AND PRESENTATION ON LILA PROGRAM**

John Whitbread gave a presentation, overview, and demonstration of the services on the LILA (Living Independently in Los Angeles) website.

Mr. Whitbread explained that LILA has been operating for over four years in partnership with the Westside Center for Independent Living and the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge. The website is user interactive and has a myriad of capabilities and links to thousands of resources and services throughout Los Angeles County for people with disabilities. The site has an on-line calendar where anyone can add their special events and activities, and there is also an advocacy alert component that allows constituents to send their concerns via e-mail directly to legislators. The site receives at least 30,000 hits a month, and Mr. Whitbread stated that he is willing to assist individuals and groups with training on the operation of LILA.

Mr. Whitbread added that the website is the first of its kind and has received national recognition. LILA presentations have been given to the United Nations and countries that have expressed an interest in implementing projects that map out resources for people with disabilities worldwide. In addition, LILA has been a recipient of several awards which include runner up for the Stockholm Challenge, Information Technology and Community Award and the J. F. K. School of Government at Harvard for Innovations in Government Award.

### **ASI STATUS REPORT**

Teddy Joy Remhild reported on recent discussions which may change Night Owl services for MTA patrons. At its upcoming MTA Board meeting, ASI will be deciding whether to discontinue its premium services which are not required under the

regulations of the ADA; reviewing its County contracts from various providers such as Global Paratransit, and MTA in the Valley; and considering RFP's from San Gabriel and East County.

Ms. Remhild also spoke about proposed changes and budget reductions to IHSS that will affect consumer service delivery, worker's wages and health care benefits.

Currently, a working group has been formed to reassess the Quality Assurance Initiative of the IHSS program, and the guidelines for the hourly rates for tasks performed by workers will be under review. At this time, 12 personal tasks will be evaluated and guidelines implemented on the time that should be allotted to complete each personal care task. In addition, the appeals process is being streamlined which may result in making it more difficult to file an appeal or get an increase in the hours that someone needs for IHSS care.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Lane gave an update on the status of the series of meetings which have been held with representatives in the movie and film industry to address the use of ADA compliant cable covers by film crews on location.

Chair Lane reported that much progress has been made regarding this issue with the entertainment industry since the discussion sessions began a few months ago. Since that time, over 20 companies, including all major production companies in the industry, attended the most recent meeting to encourage the use of ADA compliant cable covers by filming companies.

At this time, the possibility of adding specific language to the contracts that are issued to film companies and crews for location shoots that stipulates mandatory use of ADA compliant cable covers over cables crossing public right-of-way, is being considered. Chair Lane reported that she and Kurt Hagen from the ADA compliance office met with film industry representatives and Kurt Hagen gave an outstanding presentation. In addition research is being conducted to

develop a list of vendors that can rent or sell the ADA  
Compliant equipment to film companies.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

### **ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA TO BE PLACE ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

None

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice Chair Neal announced that she had information on SB-233  
the bill about alternative medicine to share with those interested  
in receiving a copy of the material.

Commission Rubenstein announced that radio station AM 870  
KRLA has a program called Breakthrough that airs on  
Saturday, from 9 – 10 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned in  
3:15 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Present**

Carol Lane, Chair  
Janet Neal, Vice Chair  
Kecia Weller, Treasurer  
Steve Jensen  
Richard Krzyzanowski  
Irma Resendez  
Harley Rubenstein  
Carlton Russell  
Bernard Siegel  
Sheila D. Wright

#### **Absent**

Ruth Ann Acosta  
Viola Vivian Corbett  
Ernest T. Hamilton Jr.  
Michael G. Gureckas  
John B. Troost  
Wendy Welt

### **Board of Supervisors**

Jim Corbett  
Dedie Ward

**Department Liaisons**

Juan Benitez, Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Matthew Leos, Registrar Recorder/County Clerk

Carlton Lindo, Office of Consumer Affairs

**Guests**

Donald Brandon

Royce Crowder

Rone Ellis

Karla Geller

Ralph Gottlieb

Mary Griffith

John Mavin

Ray McKeever

Johnnie Nicole Resendez

Jess Segovia

John Whitbread